

News and Sidelights of Society

Books for Blind to Read Being Typed by Women of Society

Industriously Work on Braille Machines in Old De Rham Mansion, Fifth Avenue and Ninth Street—
Musical Events Take Place of Dancing During Lent.

THE Spirit of Service still pervades society as in the days of the war. True, one no longer sees women of the fashionable world knitting in public, at the opera or theater, nor for that matter driving ambulances, but the long season of reconstruction finds them as active in different ways for the good of the boys who went overseas, and as enthusiastic in their desire to help, not only the heroes of the great war but the world in general.

Helping others has become as much a part of the daily routine of life in the four hundred as bridge and dancing were formerly, a part with which no social obligations are permitted to interfere. Just now many are working for the blind, studying revised Braille under the auspices of the American Red Cross in order to help provide more books for the men who lost their sight in battle. These men come first, but the thousands of sightless ones, men and women in all parts of the country, will benefit no less although later, for after the former soldiers finish the books which the matrons and maids of society patiently transcribe—a truly stupendous work, it is said—these will be circulated among the civilian blind through the Congressional Library in Washington.

In the old De Rham mansion at Fifth avenue and Ninth street, once the scene of social splendor when fashionable life centered around Washington Square, women whose mothers and grandmothers made merry there now work industriously on small machines that suggest something between a toy piano and a modern typewriter.

On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons the "click," "click" of these Braille machines may be heard in the big drawing rooms where in years gone by Lander's orchestra played for the cotillon. There can be found Miss Margaret Steward, whose mother was a Beekman; Mrs. Courtlandt P. Dixon, a member of the old Polhemus family; Mrs. Samuel Adams Clark and her sister, Miss Virginia L. Alexandre, daughters of the late J. Harry Alexandre; Mrs. Austin R. Baldwin, Mrs. Bruce Clark, Mrs. Lorenzo Danieles, Miss Agnes Alexandre and others, writing on these machines, which differ from the ordinary typewriter in that their keyboard resembles a miniature piano of six notes, which combined make the sixty-three signs of the present Braille system, and form the raised letters invented by the famous Frenchman, Louis Braille, in 1829, and which made reading possible for the blind.

Although Congress appropriates \$50,000 annually for publications for the blind, these are so expensive that the demand for reading matter far exceeds the supply, and so the Red Cross has come to the help of the sightless and will try to make it possible in time for each soldier to enjoy two books a week. The work which Mrs. Dixon, Miss Alexandre, Mrs. Adams and the other Braille students are doing will be sent to Washington, where after being "proofread" by a blind expert in the Congressional Library, Miss Adella M. Hoyt, a graduate of the Iowa College for the Blind, will be bound into books there with the name of the transcriber. The books will be sent free to any person who applies for them. A system of franking permits the return of the books to Washington without cost to the readers.

An idea of the magnitude of the work undertaken by the women may be had from the fact that an ordinary sized novel probably will be sent out in two or three volumes, for the embossed type makes necessary very heavy paper, and one book would be too bulky. This fact also adds greatly to the expense of binding, hence the value of the Red Cross workers, whose labor of love will help fill the shelves of the library for the blind in Washington, bring light into the darkened lives of many in this country, and, who knows, as one Braille enthusiast said the other day, may travel eventually across the sea to gladden the blind in Great Britain, where a similar system of writing is used, perhaps a bit more complicated than ours, for there more than a hundred signs are used.

In the meantime the women of society are working faithfully. The members of the first classes, which completed their first weeks of instruction last Friday, will soon receive their diplomas from Washington. Some of them, including Mrs. Dixon and Miss Alexandre, will become instructors of new classes—Miss Alexandre already is teaching friends—and others will do their work at home, where little Braille machines will be formidable rivals of pianos, and, instead of Chopin nocturnes, Liszt rhapsodies or works of Wagner or Debussy, the leaders of society will be immersed in Oppenheim novels, stories by O. Henry and others.

It was to be expected that with the beginning of Lent there would be no entertaining on a large scale. With the absence of so many persons of social prominence in tropical regions and in Europe, it is quite remarkable, however, that the season at the Metropolitan Opera should have continued to be so notable. Those assembled during the regular subscription nights of the last week have had all the stamp of full season, and there has been no suggestion of a penitential season as far as they were concerned. The opera season is more than two-thirds over, and judging from the present outlook it will continue through the weeks of the Lenten season to be the principal rendezvous of society. Dinners have been frequent, but there have been none of the large entertainments that marked the earlier part of the winter. Society's slogan, "On with the dance," now seems to be changed to "Say it with music," as there is so much in prospect by way of musical entertainments for one charitable fund or another.

Mrs. Vanderbilt will open her ballroom next Friday afternoon for a concert in aid of the social service work of the Broad Street Hospital, the only institution of its kind in the business section of the city, when Fritz Kreisler will give a violin recital. The ballroom of Mrs. Vanderbilt's house is spacious and will hold easily one thousand. Mrs. Goodhue Livingston is chairman of the concert committee and Mrs. H. Rogers Winthrop is treasurer. Associated with them are Meses. Brady Harriman, Frederick M. Davies, Francis C. Bishop, Frederic N. Watriss, Rufus L. Patterson, William F. White, house, Richard Van Wyck, M. Orme Wilson, Samuel A. Weidman and Miss Louise Sands, all of whom have secured seats. Other purchasers are Meses. Frederick W. Vanderbilt, Vincent Astor, J. Norman de R. Whitehouse, Adrian Isella, Murray Dodge, William K. Dick, Charles R. Scott, Henry White, Charles T. Barney, W. Everard Strong, William P. Douglas, Charles H. Baldwin, Henry Worthington Bull, Frank K. Sturges, Harry B. Hollins, A. F. Lauterbach, Thomas Victor, Charles Steele, Charles E. Greenough, Samuel Untermeyer, Charles Scribner, Miss Alice de Lamar and Miss Maud Leland. A few tickets remain unsold and may be obtained from Miss Beth Evans, 8 West Fortieth street.

According to a custom established many years ago, sewing classes for various charitable institutions have begun their Lenten tasks, and the meetings held thus far have been well attended and the subscriptions liberal. These meetings are held with serious intention, and the garments made at them are sent to hospitals or distributed by social service associations to convalescents who have been able to return to their homes after hospital treatment. Thus far the meetings of the long established classes that have been held include those for the benefit of the Fresh Air Fund of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, St. Luke's Hospital Social Service, the Rev. Mother Katherine Drexel's Auxiliary for work among the negroes, and that for the benefit of the New York Nursery and Child's Hospital. With Mrs. Lewis Iselin, at 16 West Fifty-second street, to-morrow, will be held the first meeting of the class in aid of the Social Service of Harlem Hospital, and the garments made will be distributed among convalescent children in their homes.

Indulgences are sure to be granted to those who dance in behalf of charity during the Lenten season, and several such entertainments are being arranged. Miss Marjorie Cleveland, who has been of much assistance in the entertainments given by the Junior League, with the cooperation of Miss Margaret Hennessey and Miss Edith McCoon, has organized a series of three dances with cabaret attractions, to be held for the benefit of the Manhattanville Nursery Association, which maintains a day and night nursery, to be held in the grill room of the Plaza on the nights of March 17, 24 and 31.

The dance will begin at 10 P. M. At midnight a cabaret will be given by amateurs, most of them members of the Junior League. They will include Mrs. E. Hinman Bird, Mrs. S. Theodore Hodgman, Jr.; Mrs. B. Tappen Fairchild, Meses Alida Gray, Marjorie Hughes, Marguerite Doubleday and Marie Lamarche, and in addition Meses. Russell Forgan and Lou Tilden of the Princeton Triangle Club, Roy Williams and Allyn Marsh.

Tickets for the series, at \$5 each, can be ordered from Miss Hennessey at 903 Park avenue. There will be an extra charge of \$2 for table reservations. As space in the grill room is limited, tickets will be sold in order of application.

Mrs. Edgar S. Auchincloss, Jr., who is president of the Association for the Aid of Crippled Children, with others interested, is arranging a rainbow ball for the benefit of the organization, to be held on the night of March 31 at the Ritz-Carlton. For some years this association has sought out and cared for little cripples of this city, many of whom have been left helpless or almost so by the epidemic of poliomyelitis. During the last year nearly 3,000 children have been cared for in their own homes.



Miss MARGERY DEVEREUX ANDREWS, Debutante, who with other members of the JUNIOR LEAGUE will serve in the Tea Room at the Flower Show.

Notable Weddings and Engagements Announced

Miss Alice R. Lawrence Chooses Easter Monday for Her Marriage to Mr. Raeburn Hughes Parker—Miss Alice Lee Miller to Be Bride March 22.

MISS ALICE R. LAWRENCE, daughter of Mrs. Benjamin B. Lawrence, will be the first of the Easter brides. She has chosen Easter Monday, April 17, as the date of her marriage to Mr. Raeburn Hughes Parker, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Herbert Parker of this city. Because of the recent death of Mr. Lawrence the wedding, which will take place in the Centennial Chapel of St. George's Church, Stuyvesant square, will be simple, and only relatives and a few intimate friends will be asked to the ceremony and the reception at the home of Mrs. Lawrence, 170 West Fifty-ninth street.

Miss Lawrence, who was introduced to society two years ago, is a granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Ricketts Lawrence and also of the late Mr. and Mrs. Addison Jerome. Mr. Parker was graduated from Amherst in 1920.

Miss Alice Lee Miller will be married to Mr. Pierrepont Davis Schreiber, son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Schreiber of 29 Park avenue, on March 22 in a church in Summit N. Y. The ceremony will be followed by a reception at the home of Miss Miller's mother, Mrs. James F. Bacon, Hillhome, Short Hills, N. J. Miss Miller is a granddaughter of the late John Bowers Lee of this city. Mr. Schreiber is a grandson of the late Dr. Gustavus Pierrepont Davis of Hartford, Conn. He was graduated from Yale in 1920.

Miss Helen Constance Gillespie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George J. Gillespie of 146 East Sixty-second street, will be married to Mr. Joseph Alexander Dodin on April 25. Their wedding will take place in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Miss Helen Dwight Church, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Dwight Church of the Chatham, will be married to Mr. Henry Miller Minton, son of Dr. and Mrs. Henry Brewster Minton, on Tuesday. The wedding, which will be a simple one, will take place at the home of Miss Church's sister, Mrs. W. John Logan, 90 Joralemon street, Brooklyn. The Rev. Dr. L. Mason Clarke, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church on the Heights, will officiate.

Mrs. Adelaide Keyes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Addison Keyes of

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Miss MARGUERITE DOUBLEDAY of the JUNIOR LEAGUE to appear in the Tea Room at the Flower Show in aid of the Girl Scouts.

Calendar of Social Events

MONDAY—First meeting of sewing class in aid of the Social Service Committee of Harlem Hospital, with Mrs. Lewis Iselin, 16 West Fifty-second street, 3 P. M.
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Leon reception with music to the French Consul General, Gaston Liebert, Cosmopolitan Club, evening.
Lady Murr MacKenzie lecture on "India," the Ambassador, 3 P. M.
Opening of the tea garden for the benefit of the Girl Scouts and Virginia Day Nursery, Grand Central Palace.
Miss Emma Mills reading on "English Satirists," home of Mrs. Patrick A. Valentine, 8 East Sixty-ninth street, 3 P. M.
TUESDAY—Cathedral sewing class, with Mrs. M. Orme Wilson, 3 East Sixty-fourth street, 11 A. M.
St. Luke's Hospital Social Service sewing class, with Mrs. Frederic E. Lewis, 23 West Fifty-second street, 11 A. M.
The Rev. Mother Drexel's Auxiliary sewing class, with Miss Mary Bouvier, 14 West Forty-sixth street, 11 A. M.
Colonial Dames sewing class, with Miss Mary Wagstaff, 131 East Sixty-first street, 3 P. M.
Rummage sale for Barat Day Nursery, 757 Seventh avenue.
WEDNESDAY—Special performance of "Frank Fay's Fables," benefit of College Settlement, evening.
THURSDAY—Sewing class in aid of the New York Nursery and Child's Hospital, with Mrs. James W. Gerard, 1915 Fifth avenue, 11 A. M.
Recital by Miss Ruth Draper to aid the Social Service Committee of the Post Graduate Hospital, Selwyn Theater, afternoon.
Special matinee of "Tosca" in aid of the new Fifth Avenue Hospital, Metropolitan Opera House.
FRIDAY—Recital by Fritz Kreisler to aid the social service work of the Broad Street Hospital; ballroom of Mrs. Vanderbilt's house, at 2 West Fifty-eighth street, afternoon.
First Friday Lenten dance in aid of the Manhattanville Nursery Association, with Mrs. Marjorie Cleveland, chairman, grillroom of the Plaza.
Dance to aid the endowment fund of Mount Holyoke College, Women's University Club, 106 East Fifty-second street.
Musical entertainment and dance to aid the Judson Health Center, studio of Mr. A. A. Anderson, 80 West Fortieth street.
SATURDAY—Meeting of the Saturday Evening Dances, Mrs. T. J. Oakley Rhineland, chairman, small ballroom of the Plaza.
Wedding of Miss Ruth Stanley-Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stanley-Brown and granddaughter of President Garfield, to Mr. Herbert Felix Mentor, Ohio.

Opera Stars Will Sing in Tea Garden at the Flower Show

Junior League Members to
Conduct Dances and Blind
Girl Scouts to Sell Flowers.

OPERA stars will join with society in making a financial success of the picturesque tea garden at the International Flower Show which opens in the Grand Central Palace to-morrow afternoon and ends next Sunday night. Among the soloists will be Meses Lucezia Bori and Jeanne Gordon of the Metropolitan Opera Company. The tea garden has been designed by William Lawrence Bottomley and will have an eighteenth century Chinese effect. There will be dozens of lanterns and palms and magnolias will add to the beauty of the scene. The garden itself will be partitioned into loges, the dividing walls being topped with growing flowers such as hyacinths, camellias and tulips, well filled out with bits of green. Girl Scouts in uniform will act as waitresses at the tables. Luncheon will be served every day except Sunday from 11:30 A. M. until 1 P. M. and tea will be served from 3:30 until 6 in the afternoon. Twenty-four blind Girl Scouts, who are members of two unusual troops in this city, will sell flowers and other articles during the afternoon and evening.

To Conduct the Dances. The Junior League members are collaborating with the Girl Scouts to make the tea room activities a success. These young women of society will conduct the dances that will be held throughout the week. Mrs. Vincent Astor is chairman of the committee for the Girl Scouts and Mrs. Samuel Sloan Coit heads the dance committee.

Other committees are: Supplies and equipment—Miss Mary Baker, Mrs. Everett Bowler, Mrs. Eugene Klapp, Mrs. C. S. Munson, Mrs. Charles Swartz and Mrs. Collin Wells.
Financing—Miss Dorothy Collins, Miss Elsie Croll, Mrs. J. D. Dickinson, Mrs. Roland Harriman, Mrs. Gerard Herlick, Mrs. Ramsey Hoguet, Mrs. Rowland Barton Jones, Mrs. Henry M. Post and Mrs. Hoyt Perry.

Service—Mrs. T. H. Barry, Mrs. Howard Gile, Mrs. Bertha Taylor and Mrs. Wickliffe Rose.
Luncheon—Miss Mary Lackland, Mrs. James Thompson, Mrs. Joseph Truesdale and Mrs. Francis M. von Arden.

The patronesses include Mrs. Herbert Hoover, president of the National Council of Girl Scouts, and Mrs. Warren G. Harding, honorary president of the organization, while the local patronesses are Mrs. Vincent Astor, chairman; Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss, George Blumenthal, Arthur Ogden Choate, S. Van R. Crosby, Henry W. de Forest, Charles Dana Gibson, Henry P. du Pont, John Henry Hammond, Joseph Wright Harriman, Theodore A. Havemeyer, C. Oliver Holbin, Walter Jennings Otto H. Kahn, Frank Browne Keech, V. Everit Macy, J. Willis Martin, Charles W. McAlpin, D. Hunter McAlpin, Jr.; Clarence Blair Mitchell, Lewis R. Morris, Richard L. Morris, Henry Fairfield Osborn, H. Hobart Porter, Philip Ashton Rollins, Charles Steele, John A. Stewart, Jr.; Oakleigh Thorne and Cornelia Vanderbilt, Meses E. Mabel Clark, Edith Newbold and Georgiana W. Sargent.

Spring Fashion Pageant. Another interesting feature will be the spring fashion pageant. It will be staged twice daily, excepting Sundays. Among the girls of society who will act as models are Meses Marie Lamarche, Katharine V. Speyer, Marjorie Andrews and Marguerite Doubleday.

Among those who will compete for prizes at the flower show are Mr. Payne Whitney, Col. William B. Thompson, Miss Alice A. De Lamar, Mr. Daniel Gusenheim, Mr. W. Belmont Cross and Mrs. Frederick A. Constable.

There will be a booth for the sale of articles made by inmates of the Home for Desolate Blind, which is at the assistance of Meses B. Clarisse de Rham, Sarah and Cornelia Sage, Elizabeth Lee Dodge, Jeanne Reynal, Kate de Forest Prentice, Virginia Alexander, Marjorie S. New, Louise Lusk, Mary Spencer, Jane Currier and Luspender Seabury.

At another booth will be sold articles made by disabled ex-service men at the Dugout. Presiding over it will be Mrs. Charles de Rham, Jr., who is at the assistance of Meses B. Clarisse de Rham, Sarah and Cornelia Sage, Elizabeth Lee Dodge, Jeanne Reynal, Kate de Forest Prentice, Virginia Alexander, Marjorie S. New, Louise Lusk, Mary Spencer, Jane Currier and Luspender Seabury.

Smith College Club To Give Dance for Fund

Members of the Smith College Club, which now is quartered in an old Russian mission recently purchased at 223 East Seventeenth street, will give a dance on the night of March 22 at the Plaza. For those who do not care to dance there will be an opportunity to play bridge, tables for which will be placed in the small ballroom. The object of the dance is to raise \$25,000, the New York quota of the \$1,000,000 fund that alumnae of the college are trying to collect for new buildings and also to increase the salaries of professors of the college.

Patronesses include Meses. Seth M. Milliken, William Crittenden Adams, George W. Bacon, Dwight W. Morrow, George Roberts, Lucius H. Beers, Joseph Griswold, Deane, Douglas C. Deapard, Nathan W. Green, George H. Howard, Charles D. Norton, Edgerton Parsons, Herbert Scoville and Harold Irving Pratt.

Amelia Bingham to Pour Tea for Charity

Miss Amelia Bingham will be at the Plaza Center, 47 East Fifty-seventh street, to pour tea to-morrow afternoon. At the Center, which provides a sales outlet for the work of the blind, the crippled and otherwise handicapped individuals, may be found many attractive articles of a high standard of workmanship suitable for gifts. There are children's dresses and rompers, table linens, potteries and toys—all in great variety. The tea room is open every afternoon from 3 to 6.

Bridge to Aid the Orthopedic Hospital

Under the auspices of the Bridge Club of the New York Orthopedic Hospital and Dispensary a bridge party has been arranged to take place at the Hotel Plaza March 21. Tables at \$12 or single tickets \$3, may be obtained from Mrs. Effingham Lawrence, 875 Park avenue, or at the Plaza.

Among the members of the committee are Mrs. Lawrence Ellman, Mrs. Effingham Lawrence, Mrs. L. L. Benedict, Jr., Miss Kate Fox, Mrs. D. H. Taylor, Mrs. J. D. Remsen, Mrs. Clarence Sturges, Mrs. T. C. Huntington and Miss L. D. Waterman.